



SENATOR JOHN BARRASSO, M.D.  
VICE CHAIRMAN

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Friday, May 27, 2011

## *Red Tape Review*

One hundred thirty days ago, President Obama rolled out an Executive Order for his Administration to conduct a thorough review of the nation's regulatory framework. Unfortunately, his rhetoric doesn't match reality. *The Administration's own cost estimates for the 349 proposed or enacted regulations this year is over \$66.3 billion with likely broader economic costs on our economy.* That is why Senate Republicans are fighting for common sense solutions such as *S. 1100, the "Keeping Politics Out of Federal Contracting Act of 2011," sponsored by Senators Collins, McConnell, Alexander and Portman* to prohibit federal agencies from collecting or using information about political contributions made by companies that wish to do business with the federal government.

**DAILY CALLER: Biden Drops Ball, 'Fails to Deliver' Obamacare Waiver Stipulations to Senate:** President Barack Obama's healthcare overhaul "transparency" and "openness" took another turn for the worst at the beginning of this week as it's recently come to light that *Vice President Joe Biden has failed to deliver certain necessary information on rules and regulations to the Senate.* (May 24, 2011)

**NEW YORK TIMES: Federal Review Finds Rules to Live Without:** "*There are 180,000 regulations out there and this doesn't hit the economically significant regulations,*" said Mr. Kovacs, the chamber's vice president for environmental and regulatory policy. (May 26, 2011)

**WASHINGTON TIMES: Too Many Rules Could Mean too Few Votes:** By a margin of 55 percent to 36 percent, *voters are more concerned that the federal government has too many regulations that will hurt the economy,* rather than too few regulations to hold private businesses accountable. (May 25, 2011)

**INVESTORS BUSINESS DAILY: Reform Sarbox To Galvanize High-Tech IPO's:** As companies seek breathing room to grow, they will face a tough decision: stay private, seek out a buyer or go public. *Making this complex choice all the more challenging is government uncertainty.* (May 24, 2011)

**BRISTOL HERALD COURIER: EPA Regulations for Coal-Fired Power Plants could Force Shut Downs:** *“Number one, electric rates are going to go up. Number two, whether or not construction jobs in the green industry are created, there’s virtually no manufacturing jobs that are likely to be created from the replacement of coal. Three, transmission grid stability is likely to emerge as a major issue, both because of the shutdowns and because of the intermittency of renewables.”* (May 25, 2011)

**WALL STREET JOURNAL: U.S. Regulators Aim to Extend Reach:** *U.S. regulators soon may extend their reach overseas and impose restrictions on foreign governments engaging in some financial transactions in the U.S.* (May 26, 2011)

**LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL: The Jobless Recovery:** *The nation has 5 percent fewer jobs today -- a loss of 7 million -- than it did when the recession began in December 2007. Hardest hit? Housing.* (May 23, 2011)

**HOUSTON CHRONICLE: Sen. Hutchison: Kay Bailey Hutchison: President Obama should ‘cut the bureaucratic red tape’ slowing Gulf oil drilling:** *“It is not enough for the President to talk about producing energy in America,” Hutchison said. “We call on him to put policies in place that cut the bureaucratic red tape and put Americans to work doing it.”* (May 21, 2011)

**HERITAGE: Qualified Residential Mortgage Regulations Threaten the Housing Market:** *The housing market is still weak, and federal regulators are considering a regulation that could make matters even worse.* (May 25, 2011)

**EVANSVILLE COURIER & PRESS: Sen. Coats: It's Time for Obama Administration to Unlock U.S. Energy:** *The United States possesses an abundance of oil and gas resources that remain untapped due to government overregulation.* Developing these resources would help stabilize our supply of oil while providing thousands of jobs for hard-working Americans. (May 22, 2011)

**NATIONAL REVIEW ONLINE: Obama’s Insurance Price Controls:** But what the Obama administration really is up to is imposing undefined political mandates on insurance pricing. *It hasn’t so much passed a regulation as inserted itself into the market as a subjective arbiter* — a pattern it is following in other industries, too, and one that bears keeping a watchful eye on. (May 26, 2011)

## ***GOP Solutions to Red Tape***

**Senators Introduce Keeping Politics Out of Federal Contracting Act (S. 1100)**: “Our bill would keep politics out of federal contracting,” said Senator Collins. “What possible good can come from linking political information to a process which must be grounded solely and unequivocally on providing the very best value to American taxpayers?”

**Alexander, Graham, DeMint Introduce Job Protection Act (S. 964)**

**Enzi Backs Constitutional Amendment to Give Power Back to the States (S.J. Res. 12)**

**Senate Republican Jobs Plan: An Outline for Creating American Jobs and Prosperity**

**Vitter Introduces Bill to Put “Moratorium” on Agencies Over-Regulating (S. 927)**

**Portman Introduces Bill to Reduce Regulatory Burden on Job Creators (S. 817)**

**Moran Introduces Bill to Reform Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (S. 737)**

**Inhofe, Johanns Introduce “Comprehensive Assessment of Regulations on the Economy (CARE) Act” (S. 609)**

**Paul Introduces REINS Act (S. 299)**

**Snowe, Coburn Introduce the “Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act” (S. 474)**

**Roberts Introduces “Regulatory Responsibility for our Economy Act” (S. 358)**

**Collins Introduces “Clearing Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens (CURB) Act” (S. 602)**